

Claims

- [c1] 1.A method of increasing a weight characteristic of a manufactured model railcar, comprising the steps of:
obtaining a first model railcar manufactured to predetermined specifications;
examining said model railcar and determining a plurality of locations on surfaces of said first model railcar where lead alloy weights could be placed in a non-conspicuous manner;
generating instructions on placement of weights at said plurality of locations;
providing a planar piece of lead alloy material having a thickness dimension of less than .26 inches;
wherein said lead alloy material is an alloy, having a mixture of lead, tin, copper and antimony where lead comprises between 78% and 85% of said alloy and tin comprises between 3 to 13% and antimony between 9% to 12%;
machining said planar piece of said lead alloy material into a plurality of predetermined weight segments using a rotary saw;
combining said plurality of predetermined weight segments with said instructions to form a model railcar

weight augmenting kit;
providing said model railcar weight augmenting kit; and
adhering, in accordance with said instructions, said plurality of predetermined weight segments to a second model railcar manufactured to said predetermined specifications.

[c2] 2.A method of claim 1 wherein said second model railcar is sold without weights of the type containing a lead alloy.

[c3] 3.A method of claim 2 wherein said step of adhering comprises using a water-based glue.

[c4] 4.A method of claim 3 further comprising painting said plurality of predetermined weight segments.

[c5] 5.A method of claim 4 wherein said step of machining comprises using a rotating saw having a carbide-tipped blade.

[c6] 6.A method of claim 4 wherein said instructions are written instructions.

[c7] 7.A method of claim 6 wherein said second model railcar is selected from a group of model railcars which have been sold to end users, without weights of a type containing a lead alloy.

- [c8] 8.A method of augmenting weight for model railcars comprising the steps of:
obtaining a model railcar weight augmenting kit which comprises a plurality of custom-machined lead alloy weights and printed instructions for placement of said plurality of custom-machined lead alloy weights on a model railcar manufactured to predetermined specifications, wherein said printed instructions reflect peculiarities in said predetermined specifications; and
gluing each of said plurality of custom-machined lead alloy weights to a model railcar, manufactured to said predetermined specifications, using said printed instructions as a guide to assist in placement of said plurality of custom-machined lead alloy weights.
- [c9] 9.A method of claim 8 wherein said lead alloy comprises lead, tin and antimony.
- [c10] 10.A method of claim 9 wherein said plurality of custom-machined lead alloy weights have an edge thereon which has been cut by a rotary saw.
- [c11] 11.A method of claim 10 wherein said plurality of custom-machined lead alloy weights comprises between 80% and 84% lead.
- [c12] 12.A method of claim 11 wherein said plurality of cus-

tom-machined lead alloy weights further comprise between 4% and 12% tin.

- [c13] 13.A model railcar comprising:
 - a frame having a plurality of recesses therein;
 - said frame having a plurality of model railcar wheels attached thereto;
 - a plurality of custom-machined lead alloy weights disposed in said plurality of recesses, so that said plurality of custom-machined lead alloy weights are concealed from sight when viewed from an elevation view; and
 - wherein each of said plurality of custom-machined lead alloy weights has a thickness dimension less than .26 inches.
- [c14] 14.A model railcar of claim 13 comprising a gondola-type railcar.
- [c15] 15.A model railcar of claim 14 wherein said plurality of custom-machined lead alloy weights are disposed beneath a floor of said gondola-type railcar.
- [c16] 16.A model railcar of claim 13 wherein said plurality of custom-machined lead alloy weights are comprised of an alloy of between 80% to 84% lead by weight.
- [c17] 17.A model railcar of claim 16 wherein said alloy comprises between 4%–12% tin.

- [c18] 18.A model railcar of claim 17 wherein said plurality of custom- machined lead alloy weights are generally planar and have a thickness in a range of .01388 inches to .25 inches.
- [c19] 19.A model railcar of claim 18 wherein said alloy comprises between 9%–12% antimony.
- [c20] 20.A model railcar of claim 19 wherein said alloy comprises approximately 9% antimony.
- [c21] 21.A method of augmenting a weight characteristic of a model railcar comprising the steps of:
obtaining a first model railcar manufactured to predetermined specifications;
examining said model railcar and determining a plurality of locations on said first model railcar where lead alloy weights could be placed;
generating written printed instructions regarding placement of weights at said plurality of locations;
providing a planar piece of lead alloy material having a thickness dimension of between .01388 inches and .25 inches;
wherein said lead alloy material is an alloy, having a mixture of lead, tin and antimony where lead comprises between 79% and 85% of said alloy and tin comprises

between 3% to 13% and antimony between 4% to 12%;
machining said planar piece of said lead alloy material
into a plurality of predetermined weight segments using
a rotary saw;
combining said plurality of predetermined weight segments
with said instructions to form a model railcar
weight augmenting kit;
providing said model railcar weight augmenting kit;
adhering, in accordance with said instructions, said plurality
of predetermined weight segments to a second
model railcar manufactured to said predetermined specifications;
wherein said second model railcar is sold without
weights of the type containing a lead alloy;
wherein said step of adhering comprises using a water-based
glue;
painting said plurality of predetermined weight segments;
wherein said step of machining comprises using a rotating
saw having a carbide-tipped blade;
wherein said instructions are written printed instructions;
and
wherein said second model railcar is selected from a
group of model railcars which have been sold to end
users without weights of a type containing a lead alloy.

[c22] 22.A method of claim 21 wherein an alloy with a higher percentage of lead is used when stock being machined has a larger thickness.